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Governor's Autism Council
Thursday, November 10th, 2016
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Department of Health Services
1 W. Wilson Street, Room 630, Madison WI 53707

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Nissan Bar-Lev; Wendy Coomer; Vivian Hazell; Liesl Jordan; Pam Lano; Roberta Mayo; Glen Sallows; Shannon Knall (phone); Milana Millan (phone)

Committee Members Absent: Michael Williams (on leave from Committee)

DHS Council and Staff: Deb Rathermel (Director – Bureau of Children's Services); Andrea Jacobson (Section Chief – Bureau of Children's Services); Autumn Knutson (Section Chief – Bureau of Children's Services); Sam Ninnemann (Program and Policy Analyst – Bureau of Children's Services); Nancy Bills (Spherion, Administrative Staff – Bureau of Children's Services); Tabitha Ramming (DHS); Pam Appleby (DHS)

Public Attendees: Matt Doll; Bob Johnston; Michelle Sherman; Kim Schutt-Chardon (WEAP); Stacie Ferg (FVATP); Katie Saint (FVATP)

Meeting commenced at 10:00 AM

1) Welcome and Introductions – Andrea Jacobson (Bureau of Children's Services)

- Council members and Department of Health Services (DHS) staff introduced themselves

2) Public Testimony: None

3) Operational:

- Approval of meeting minutes from August 11, 2016
>Motion was made by Milana Millan; seconded by Vivian Hazell to approve these meeting minutes -- Motion passed unanimously

4) Role of the Council:

- Council Membership discussion covered the following:
 - There is a need to have more parent representation on the Council;
 - What other issues can this Council provide feedback and leadership on to assist the Department of Health Services, Legislature and Governor
 - What is the mission and focus of this Council
 - Need to fill open Council appointee positions – one suggestion was to include someone with autism who would have important lifespan experience
- >Motion was made by Nissan Bar-Lev; seconded by Roberta Mayo to:
Write a recommendation to the Governor's Office requesting the inclusion of a member on the Autism Council on the spectrum. – Motion passed 8-1 (Glen Sallows objected)
- >Action Step: Pam Lano will draft a letter and send it to Council members for comments and suggestions before the letter is sent.

4. Role of the Council: (Continued)

- Recommendations for two (2) revisions: "letter of authorization" and "Mission and Scope" prepared by the Autism Council's Scope Working Group
 - Recommendation for new authorization language is:
"To advise the Governor and DHS on issues related to children with autism and their families".
 - Recommendation to amend Article II – Mission and Responsibilities, Section 1: Mission and Scope

Current language:

Section 1: Mission and Scope

The Autism Council was established by the Governor to advise the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) on supports and services for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. The governor instructed the council to examine the following issues:

- > Provider staff training issues
- > Provider and parent strategies to recruit and retain line staff
- > Provider outreach efforts to recruit parents to work as line staff
- > Alternative approaches to the current age restriction policy in the intensive phase

Scope Working Group recommended these primary issues to include:

- > Early diagnosis and intervention
- > Information resource for parents on available programs and services
- > Encourage a positive working relationship between the DPI, the autism community and DHS.
- > Advise on strategies to DHS and DWD for a transition to independence

- After further discussion, the Council membership discussed and agreed that "DPI" should be inserted into the last recommendation and should say: "Advise on strategies to DHS, DPI and DWD for a transition to independence"
- > Motion was made by Vivian Hazell; seconded by Nissan Bar-Lev to accept recommended new scope of Council. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Safety of Children with Autism:

- Wendy Coomer presented examples of situations resulting in child death and different ways that this Council could lead the discussion on alternative ways to monitor children to keep them safe.
- Wendy suggested convening a working group to look into multiple options that could make recommendations including the use of personal bracelet monitoring.
- The following Council members said they would serve on this subcommittee, they included: Wendy Coomer, Pam Lano, Milana Millan, Liesl Jordan and Nissan Bar-Lev.

6. Update Transition of Autism Treatment Services by Deb Rathermel, Director, Bureau of Children's Services, Department of Health Services (DHS)

- Transition of autism treatment services is moving from waiver funded to Card funded
- Under the state Medicaid benefit, formal transition started in May 2016
- 1,400 kids between May and October were affected
- Transition is coming to an end (as of December 31, 2016) and waiver services will no longer be available
- Approximately 600 children identified with an Autism diagnosis who are on the waiver or waiver waitlist do not currently have a pre-authorization under the Medicaid state plan benefit

6. Update Transition of Autism Treatment Services by Deb Rathermel, Director, Bureau of Children's Services (BCS), Department of Health Services (DHS) – Continued

- The Bureau of Children's Services sent a letter template to the counties, who in turn, sent letters out to participants on or before October 31, 2016 regarding their child's services ending and the need to get a provider and prior authorization.
- Recommended that participants reach out through their service provider.
- Regarding the transition, our agency looked at continuous enrollment numbers and found that most families who are moving to the Card are also seeking to continue to receive waiver services.
- There are a handful of counties who previously did not provide services to kids with autism spectrum so the Department of Health Services had previously contracted with Lutheran Social Services to provide these services in twelve (12) counties and St. Francis in two (2) counties. BCS has been working with these two contractors for over a year regarding transitioning all of their program participants back to county care coordination.
- Waitlist – Wisconsin's long term support program had two waiting lists. BCS manages the autism wait list and the counties manage the wait list for all other kids. All children have now been moved to one wait list. As of October 2016, there are 2,505 kids on the wait list for services and 6,090 are being served on waiver services.
- Based on Council member's questions following Deb's presentation, she added the following information:
 - >Counties have wait lists from 6 months to 16 years
 - >There is a waiting list for kids with autism to enroll, and available providers in the participant's local area can also be a challenge in areas of the state.
 - >There is no on-line service provider option at this time
 - >Telehealth WI is exploring this as a possible solution to the available provider issue
 - >There is no waitlist for behavioral treatment services
- The Council continued to discuss these related issues:
 - Access to services, information sharing and continued education
 - Katie Beckett Program services
 - Seeking a collaboration
 - Issue of lack of funding for service provider travel
 - Requesting an information sharing link on DHS public website
 - Outreach to community resources
 - Collaboration between state agencies to share resources

7. Wrap Up:

> **Action Step:** Andrea will develop a meeting schedule starting in February, 2017

- Pam Appleby, (Department of Health Services) mentioned that Forward Health has policy Parameters regarding the IDEA Program. She will look through information and if the Council is interested, she can present updates at future meetings.

8. Future Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

- Families needing more resources who are on the waitlist
- DHS memo to counties about access to Forward Health Parameters – will work with BCS on the specifics and framing discussion

9. Adjournment:

> **Motion:** Vivian Hazell made a motion, seconded by Wendy Coomer to adjourn.
Motion passed unanimously.